

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 10, 2005 (the "Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 9-14 were pending in the Application. Applicants amend Claims 9 and 13, cancel Claim 12 and add new Claims 21-34. Reconsideration and favorable action are requested.

Specification Objection

The Office Action objects to the Specification for reference to a related application without a serial number. Applicants filed a Preliminary Amendment on July 9, 2001 replacing the Cross Reference to Related Applications paragraph and identifying related applications by serial and patent numbers. A copy of this preliminary amendment is attached hereto as Exhibit A. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

Subject Matter Indicated as Allowable

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's statement that Claims 12-13 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully contend that Claim 13 is in condition for allowance.

Section 103 Rejections

The Office Action rejects Claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,758,126 to Daniels ("*Daniels*"). The Office Action rejects Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Daniels* in view of U.S. Patent 5,577,202 to Padgett ("*Padgett*"). The Office Action rejects Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Daniels* in view of U.S. Patent 5,974,406 to Bisdikian ("*Bisdikian*"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have amended Claim 9 to include elements of Claim 12 indicated as allowable. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 9 is patentable over the cited art used in the rejections and request that the rejection of Claim 9 be withdrawn.

Claims 10-11 and 14 depend from Claim 9. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 9, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections of Claims 10-11 and 14 be withdrawn.

New Claims

Applicants add new Claims 21-34. Claims 21-34 contain no new matter and are fully supported by the specification as filed.

Claims 21-24 depends from Claim 9. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 21-24 are allowable over the cited art used in the previous rejections for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 9.

Claim 25 recites interfacing between a communication protocol of a plurality of Internet mail units of the communication units and a communication protocol of the interface unit, similar to allowable elements of original Claim 12. Claim 34 recites similar elements. Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 25 and 34. Claims 26-33 depend from Claim 25. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 26-33 are allowable over the cited art used in the previous rejections for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 25

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims.

If the present application is not allowed and/or if one or more of the rejections is maintained, Applicants hereby request a telephone conference with the Examiner and further request that the Examiner contact Chad C. Walters, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6511 to schedule the telephone conference.

Applicants believe no additional fees are due. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Chad C. Walters
Reg. No. 48,022

Date: September 6, 2005

Correspondence Address

 X Customer Number **05073**



The "Received" stamp of the Patent and Trademark Office imprinted hereon acknowledges the filing of:

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--|-------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Appln.; C.P.A.; Con.; CIP.; Div.: | Total Pages | <input type="checkbox"/> Mo. Extension of Time | Total Pages |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provisional; Converted Provisional (Specification, Claims, Abstract) | 31 | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Appeal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bibliographic Data Sheet | 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Brief | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Declaration/power of Attorney | | <input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee Transmittal | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment | 2 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check No. 109109 Amt.: 710.00 | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Verified Statement | 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> Check No. Amt.: | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing | | <input type="checkbox"/> Serial No. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Informal Drawings | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other IDS / Nonpublication Request | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Response Preliminary | | | |

Name of Inventor(s):

Francis Hsieh, et al.

Title of Invention:

Electronic Commerce Distributed Network...

Client or Applicant:

Sterling Commerce

BB File No.:

021768.1163

Mailed: 7/9/01

Due:

Atty/Secy:

TJS/KL

Certificate of Mailing

Express Mail ☒

Receipt No.: PL501020611 US

Certificate Of Mailing

First Class Mail ☐

Hand Delivered ☐

Receipt Date & Serial No:

JC971 U.S. PTO
09/901402



07/09/01

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.

JUL 23 2001

RECEIVED

BEST AVAILABLE COPY